

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15

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FM USMISSITN EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5858

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS: EIND, EEC

SUBJECT: REPORTS ON RESIGNATION OF EC DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR INDUSTRIAL POLICY RONALD GRIERSON DENIED

REFS: A. EC BRUSSELS A-356; B. EC BRUSSELS 5319;
C. EC BRUSSELS A-282

1. THE GUARDIAN OF OCTOBER 9 AND OTHER MEDIA REPORTED
THAT RONALD GRIERSON, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR FOR
GENERAL INDUSTRIAL POLICY, PLANS TO RESIGN BEFORE
THE END OF THE YEAR. THE EC COMMISSION SPOKESMAN'S
OFFICE TOLD THE MISSION THE SAME DAY THAT GRIERSON
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HAD NO INTENTION OF RESIGNING AND WILL CATEGORICALLY

DENY THE REPORT WHICH WE HAVE JUST LEARNED HE DID WHILE IN LONDON. A FINANCIAL TIMES STORY ON OCTOBER 10 QUOTED SOURCES CLOSE TO GRIERSON AS SAYING THAT HE EXPECTED TO STAY WITH THE COMMISSION FOR TWO YEARS (HE ARRIVED EALY THIS YEAR) AND THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF LEAVING PREMATURELY.

2. THE GUARDIAN REPORT STATED THAT THE REASON FOR THE ALLEGED DECISION TO RESIGN WAS THE PERSONAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GRIERSON AND EC COMMISSIONER ALTIERO SPINELLI WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INDUSTRIAL POLICY. THE PROBLEM BETWEEN THE TWO MEN, ACCORDING TO THE GUARDIAN, CAME TO A BOIL OVER THE COMMISSION PAPER ON MULTINATIONALS (SEE REF A) WHICH SPINELLI IS PUSHING AND GRIERSON OPPOSES TO THE EXTENT OF BOYCOTTING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS ON THE COMMISSION PAPER. (WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THIS FROM COMMISSION OFFICIALS.)

3. COMMENT: THE MISSION HAS DESCRIBED THE IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WHICH SEPARATE GRIERSON, THE LONDON MERCHANT BANKER, CAUTIOUS ABOUT COMMISSION INTRUSIONS INTO AREAS HE CONSIDERS THE PREROGATIVES OF INDUSTRY AND SPINELLI, THE ITALIAN SOCIALIST, WHO IS SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLY LESS RESTRAINT. (SEE REF C) GRIERSON ALSO TOLD US RECENTLY ABOUT THE "LONE WOLF" AND RESTRAINING ROLE HE IS PLAYING IN THE COMMISSION (SEE REF B). GRIERSON MAY INDEED BE STAYING ON AT THE COMMISSION BUT THE PROBLEMS HE IS HAVING WITH COMMISSIONER SPINELLI AND OTHER "ACTIVISTS" IN THE COMMISSION ON RESTRUCTURING EUROPEAN INDUSTRY ALSO REMAIN. GREENWALD

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